

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 AID-05 SS-15 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 H-02 EB-07

IGA-01 /081 W

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P R 080925Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3261

LIMITED OFNICIAL USE VIENTIANE 2430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF OPIUM PRODUCTION
IN LAOS

REFS: A) STATE 067315

B) GENEVA 2357

1. WE WELCOME GENEVA'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL B) THAT INCB
PRESIDENT REUTER AND SECRETARY DITTERT VISIT VIENTIANE IN
MID-MAY TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE LAO GOVERNMENT
(PGNU) DECISION OFFICIALLY TO RESUME OPIUM PRODUCTION. IN
PARTICULAR, VISIT BY FRENCH-SPEAKING UN REPRESENTATIVES
COULD HAVE SALUTARY IMPACT ON EFFORTS BY PGNU TO MODIFY OR
REPEAL 1971 ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW.

2. SINCE AMERICAN EFFORTS TO SHORT-CIRCUIT REPEAL OF LAW
COULD WELL BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE GIVEN LPF OLEL NITION TO
LAW, WE HAVE CONFINED OURV PRESENT ACTIONS TO PREPARING A
FRENCH-LANGUAGE SYNOPSIS OF THE LEGAL INTERPRETATION
OF SINGLE CONVENTION (PROVIDED REFTTEL A) FOR USE IN LOW-
KEY DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LAO MINISTRY OF
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JUSTICE, GROUPE SPECIAL D'INVESTIGATION, JOINT NATIONAL

POLITICAL COUNCIL AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. YOU MAY TELL DITTERT THAT PGNU HAS REPEAL AND/OR MODIFICATION OF NARCOTICS LAW UNDER STUDY. WHILE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PRECIPITATE ACTION ON REPEAL (SINCE PRIME MINISTER, JUSTICE MINISTER AND INTERIOR MINISTER, AS WELL AS OTHER HIGH-RANKING LAO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED), THERE IS VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT THE LAW WILL EVENTUALLY BE MODIFIED. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT PROPOSED DITTERT-REUTER VISIT WOULD BE TIMELY, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO GIVE PGNU IMPARTIAL LEGAL ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO REVISE THE EXISTING LAW.

4. AS FOR QUESTION OF WHOM DITTERT SHOULD CALL ON, WE SUGGEST THAT HE CONTACT BOTH LAO AMBASSADOR IN PARIS AND LAO REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK. WE RECOMMEND THAT CONTACT WITH LAO BE MADE DIRECTLY BY INCB AND U.S. REMAIN DISCREETLY IN BACKGROUND. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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